

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01227 230834 Z

10/46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 NIC-01 CU-04 IO-12 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

RSR-01 /116 W

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O 211815 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5766

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A F I V E)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL FSFA SPOKESMAN STATEMENT RE CAMP COUNSELOR
INTERVIEWS AND FOREIGN RADIO ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAVIA

REF: BELGRADE 1133

1. AT WEEKLY FSFA PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, VUJOVIC OF SECINFO FEC, SUBBING FOR REGULAR SPOKESMAN ZUPAN, READ STATEMENT FROM PREPARED TEXT IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON AMERICAN EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT IN CAMP COUNSELOR INTERVIEWS IN LJUBLJANA. FOLLOWING IS OFFICIAL TANJUG VERSION:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERVIEWING OF LJUBLJANA STUDENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USA, VUJOVIC SAID THAT THE "CAMPAIGN" WHICH CERTAIN CIRCLES IN THE WEST ARE CONDUCTING AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA, ITS SOCIO- POLITICAL SYSTEM AND INTEGRITY, AND WHICH REPRESENTS AN INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRY AND AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE ITS DEVELOPMENT, INDEPENDENT POLICY AND POLITICAL NON- ALIGNMENT, BROADLY
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 01227 230834 Z

UTILIZES ALL MEANS, INCLUDING EVEN THE ENGAGING OF USTASHI, CHETNIK AND OTHER EXTREMIST ELEMENTS. AMONG OTHERS ALSO CERTAIN RADIO STATIONS IN USA PLACE THEIR FACILITIES AT THE DISPOSAL OF SUCH PEOPLE FOR BROADCASTING THE COAREST ATTACKS ON OUR COUNTRY, WHICH HAS AROUSED UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN ON THE PART OF OUR PUBLIC AS WELL AS ITS JUSTIFIABLE BITTERNESS AND ANGER.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERVIEWING OF THE LJUBLJANA STUDENTS BY AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES, VUJOVIC ADDED, WE MADE A DEMARCHE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BELGRADE AND EXPRESSED THE EXPECTATION THAT SUCH UNFRIENDLY PRACTICE WOULD BE STOPPED. AS WE SAID ON THAT OCCASION, WE DESIRE A CONTINUATION AND THE PROGRESS OF COOPERATION IN ALL AREAS, INCLUDING ALSO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND EXCHANGES OF PERSONS, BUT ON THE BASIS OF STRICT PROPER MUTUAL INTEREST AND THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERFERENCE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND OTHERS, WHICH HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AS THE BASIS FO BILATERAL RELATIONS, SINCE ONLY ON THAT BASIS CAN GOOD AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN FSRY AND USA BE FUTHER CONSTRUCTED.

THE AMERICAN SIDE IN ITS RESPONSE, SAID THAT IT DESIRED NO INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT WHICH MIGHT DAMAGE COOPERATION AND THAT IT WOULD INSURE THAT SUCH INCIDENTS DID NOT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: PORTION OF VUJOVIC COMMENT WHICH RELATES DIRECTLY TO IHMP COUNSELOR INTERVIEWS IS UNEXCEPTIONAL AND DOES NOT GO BEYOND PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED POSITIONS. HOWEVER, EMBASSY PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT PRECEDING REMARKS (PARA 2 ABOVE) WHICH PLACE OUR CAMP COUNSELOR INTERVIEWS INCONTEXT OF BROAD " CAMPAGIN" AGAINST YUGOSLAV SOCIAL- POLITICAL SYSTEM AND LEAVE IMPRESSION THIS " CAMPAIGN" IS TIMULATED BY OFFICIAL US CIRCLES. WE CAN PERHAPS DERIVE SOME COMFORT FROM FACT THAT VOA IS NO LONGER MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY AND INSTEAD CHARGES ARE LEVELLED AT " CERTAIN RADIO STATIONS IN USA". HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT THESE CHARGES ALSO ARE LEVELLED IN CONTEXT " CAMPAIGN" AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA.

5. MOREOVER, EMBASSY REGARDS THIS CONTINUED HARSH TREATMENT OF THESE ISSUES AS IN SHARP CONTRAST WITH ASSURANCES GIVEN PAO MARCH 21 BY SECINFO BUDIMOVSKI THAT IT IS THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT TO MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE THEY POSE TO BILATERAL RELATIONS (BELGRADE 1133). IN ADDITION, KREACIC OF FOREIGN SECRETARIAT HAS ASSURED US THAT GOY HAS INTEREST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 01227 230834 Z

PREVENTING ESCALATION THIS ISSUE, ALTHOUGH HE HAS CLAIMED SFSA HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE OVER PRESS AND HAS NOTED THAT PRESS HAS UNDERSTANDABLY BECOME MORE POLITICALLY VIGILANT IN PAST YEAR. IT IS WORTHY OF NOTE THAT VUJOVIC IS A DEPUTY OF BUDIMOVSKI. EITHER BUDIMOVSKI'S ASSURANCES OF GOY DESIRE TO DESCALATE ISSUE WERE MADE IN MOVE TO PLACATE EMBASSY, OR HE WAS OVERRULED BY HIGHER AUTHORITY. EITHER WAY, DECISION TO NOT LET ISSUE DIE NOW CLEARLY HAS BEEN MADE AT POLITICAL LEVEL.

6. AMBASSADOR IS SEEKING URGENT MEETING AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN FOREIGN SECRETARIAT TO REGISTER US UNHAPPINESS AT (1) APPARENT DECISION TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE ISSUES IN MANNER WHICH RISKS REAL DAMAGE TO BILATERAL RELATIONS AND (2) APPARENT DELIBERATE EFFORT BY OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN TO IMPLY THAT CAMP COUNSELOR INTERVIEWS AND RADIO BROADCASTS ARE PART OF CONCEDED ANTI- YUGOSLAV CAMPAIGN IN US.

7. IN COVERAGE SFSA STATEMENT WE SUGGEST MEDIA CONFINE COMMENT TO NOTING PREVIOUS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED CHARGES AGAINST VOA HAVE BEEN DROPPED AND TEXT EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE ABOUT CAMP COUNSELOR INTERVIEWS (BELGRADE 1007).
TOON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELGRA01227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730335/aaaaieez.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BELGRADE 1133
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <15-Oct-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971219
Subject: OFFICIAL FSFA SPOKESMAN STATEMENT RE CAMP COUNSELOR INTERVIEWS AND FOREIGN RADIO ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, YO
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USIA
ZAGREB
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005